

tion and only new voters will have to register. This plan would be a saving of expense and a saving of trouble and annoyance now imposed upon qualified and previously registered voters.

For the general welfare of all the people improvements in the roads, the country roads as well as those of the suburbs of the cities, is a crying necessity. The bill and the joint memorial for which Representative Roberts is sponsor should receive the careful and favorable consideration of the legislature. The joint memorial is an endorsement of what is known as the Brownlow bill in the United States congress, providing for a national appropriation of \$24,000,000 to be distributed among the states of the Union according to population for road building on condition that the states, counties and towns to be benefited raise an equal amount to that which they receive from the Federal government. If this measure passes congress and becomes a law, Utah would receive \$250,000, which, with a similar amount raised at home, would be a tremendous factor in improving the internal communication of the states and a great boon to all the people.

#### CHATTER.

(Being the personal opinions of the writer and for which no one else is in any manner responsible.)

The Supreme court of the great state of Illinois has decided that any surgeon who performs a major operation on a patient without said patient's consent is, under the law, guilty of malice and liable to punitive damages. Even the consent of the nearest relative, provided the patient be of sound mind, does not relieve the scientist of liability. The court holds, however, that emergency cases do not come under this decision, which gives the doctor a bit of a chance for his white alley. The case which resulted in the judgment of the court was one where a surgeon operated on a woman for epilepsy. She was not unable to care for her household duties and looked after her three children as well as a woman thus afflicted could look after children. At the solicitation of her brother-in-law, during her husband's absence, she was taken to a sanitarium for treatment, and while there, without her consent, she was chloroformed and the surgeon performed an operation he designated as "hysterectomy." After returning to her home, her mind failed and she was taken to the hospital for the insane, where she now is. Her husband brought suit and was awarded a verdict of \$3,000 damages. The physician pleaded in defense that the husband had given him carte blanche in the case, but the defense availed him nothing.

This is a correct decision. While it is true the patient may at times decline to consent to an operation which might be the means of saving life, the afflicted one, in certain instances, ought to have the right of electing whether an operation should be performed or not. Many times surgeons are too hasty with the knife, although it is gratifying to note that greater care is exercised now than there used to be. A case in point right here in Utah will bear repeating. David McDonald, a private in Battery A, N. G. U., was injured during a parade, his right leg being crushed below the knee. The surgeons at the hospital were a unit in declaring the injured member should be taken off. McDonald objected, and declared he would die with that leg on if it was his time to die, but never would he give permission to operate. He was reasoned with in vain; no sort of argument

would convince him. That he was right is demonstrated by the fact that he got well and is today shoeing horses, an occupation a man with a weak leg would have to abandon. The writer does not pretend that a patient knows more than the surgeon, but there are so many instances where "the operation is a success, but the patient dies," that too much care cannot be exercised. In the case of this Illinois woman, she would have doubtless lived happily for many years but for the experiments of the doctor who did the cutting, it being proven on the trial that she was an exceptionally bright woman. It seems to me that in many cases it is better to place the responsibility upon the patient than on the physician.

A very old poem relates the story of a sergeant of the French army, who reported to his general:

"Present four, and I, all wounded; Praised be God, we hold the fort."

This old narrative has a duplicate in the story of a Russian regiment at the battle of the Shakhe river. After being mercilessly raked by Japanese fire, six men and an officer reported to General Stakelberg. The officer and his men, were all bleeding. The general raked them mercilessly for abandoning their regiment, but when informed by the commander of the remnant that they were all that remained of a battalion, was horror-stricken. The wounded officer fell from exhaustion after making the report. Ambulance attaches at once attended to the wants of the "regiment." The incident is worthy of being embalmed in song and story and no doubt some Russian poet will some day tell the juveniles of the autocracy the tale of how these men reported "present."

For the benefit of the fair sex, I reproduce a "special cable" from Paris to the effect that "double skirts will be the feature of the new season's models. The sleeves will be short and very full at the shoulder."

M. Hector Granet, a resident of Versailles, France, has the remains of his father, kept in a cement sarcophagus, filled with alcohol and covered with glass, through which admiring visitors can see the perfectly preserved form of the old man, whose hair and whiskers are still growing. This gruesome exhibit demonstrates one thing; that alcohol makes the hair grow.

From the Brickville Vindicator we clip the following items:

Colonel Silas Watson was a pleasant visitor at this office last Wednesday. Colonel Watson was accompanied by a dressed turkey, which he kindly forgot when he departed. The colonel expects to run for sheriff of this county next fall. It is rather early to open the campaign, but we predict that if the colonel lives and keeps his health, he will sweep everything before him.

Mrs. Rev. Springer is on the sick list with tonsillitis. It is lucky that it is her instead of the reverend, as he is busy this week with one of the most enthusiastic revival meetings ever held in our midst.

Major White of this place went to St. Louis recently, and while there saw Mr. John Walker, an old Brickston boy, who has been meeting with wonderful success since he left here several years ago to seek his fortune in a larger place. Mr. Walker now has a very lucrative position in a flour and feed store.

Mrs. Captain Ellis entertained a party of friends in a very pleasant manner Thursday afternoon. There were more than seventeen ladies present, and games of various kinds were played. Each of those in attendance was invited to bring pie, cake, or cold meat of some kind, and an enjoyable

luncheon was given as one of the attractive features of the occasion.

Henry Briggs, living three miles east of this place, had the misfortune to fall through his hay mow one day last week, landing in a stall occupied by a mule. We are glad to say that no bones were broken. The mule did not happen to be in the stall at the time.

Mrs. Editor Howe of the Spring Valley News is visiting friends in this place. Better look out, neighbor. The men of this town have a sharp eye for beauty.

#### DEATH'S HARVEST.

It was sad that W. A. Nelden elected to commit suicide rather than face the difficulties of business which confronted him, but inasmuch as he chose to face the unknown in preference to remaining here and fighting the battle out, we who survive cannot restrain ourselves from offering our sympathy to those he left behind and expressing our regrets that he has gone the way of all flesh. He was a genial man in his life time, and a valuable member of the community. He was active and energetic and seemed to have a desire to benefit the community in which he lived. Has was the first president of the Commercial club, and in that capacity did much to establish the organization. He was an active member of the board of education and was president one term, serving with fidelity and distinction, because he was a friend of the schools. In business life, he was persistent and worked hard to achieve success. For some time past he has not been well, and recently he was displaced as president of the Nelden Drug company, because of his inability to stand the strain.

Believing, perhaps, that his days of usefulness were over, and that it would be better to die, he invited the Reaper to his presence and by his own hand terminated existence here. There may be those who will judge him harshly because of this action, but not so with Truth. We sincerely regret his going, but have no adverse criticism to offer. May his soul rest in peace in a better land than this, where cares and annoyances are unknown.

Mr. Nelden was 52 years of age, and left a wife and three children, one Mrs. Louise Nelden-Cross, the others Paul and Ralph Nelden, to mourn his loss. May He who heals wounded hearts look in pity upon them and compensate them for the terrible grief that has thrown its shadow over their home.

William Pinney, who for many years has been superintendent of buildings for the board of education, died on Tuesday last, after a very short illness. Mr. Pinney was a kind gentleman, who had a host of friends. Heart failure and congestion of the lungs cause his demise. He was taken ill on the Sunday previous to his passing, and while on the day previous he was able to recognize his family and friends, he soon afterward sank into unconsciousness and peacefully went away. He was born in England and came here in 1863. He worked on the Tabernacle organ, and did much of the interior work in the Gardo house, now occupied by Colonel Holmes. He was prominent in the erection of the McCornick block and the Chamber of Commerce, and erected most of the handsome school buildings in the city, the Lafayette school being his masterpiece. Five sons and four daughters and nineteen grandchildren mourn the loss of an excellent man, and have numerous acquaintances to

join them in their bereavement. The board of education, in his death, loses perhaps the oldest employe and certainly one of its most faithful, most trusted and most devoted servants. He was just in all his dealings, kindly and true. His life is an example to be emulated by the thousands of children who receive their education in the exceedingly fine buildings which he designed and carried to completion.

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